

Exhibit No. 2Date 2-7-07Bill No. SB 93

Tom Bartlett
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Sen. Dan Weinberg, Chair
Senate Public Health and Human Services Committee

Re: SB 93

Honorable Chairman and Committee Members,

I am a mental health consumer in Kalispell and also Chairman of the Western Service Area Authority. My request today concerning SB 93 is as an individual interested in improving the effectiveness of consumers and other stakeholders working through the Service Area Authorities to advance mental health services in Montana.

I give my full support to SB 93 which would increase funding for the three SAAs. We have been grateful for the financial support given by AMDD, however with increasing membership and attendance of consumers, travel, our highest expense, and meal expenses are outstripping the \$15,000 per year that we currently receive. Currently, we have only one person, our website manager, who is receiving any financial compensation and I feel that other services provided to our organization deserve modest compensation as well.

Our Treasurer has projected that our annual expenses will actually be closer to \$30,000 per year considering additional travel, meals, lodging, SAA Summit meetings and other expenses.

Respectfully yours,

Tom Bartlett